

I Have a Fight

and told me that some one had struck him. I got 159*
 angry and told him to point out the person who had 541
 done it. Just then the very person appeared and I 648
 tried to strike him, but he got away. I succeeded, how-
 ever, in striking him with a drumstick. That evening
 I was told that the man whom I had struck had said
 that he was going to kill a certain Indian. "Perhaps
 he doesn't know that he also is subject to death," I
 answered. "Indeed, I am anxious to get ahold of
 him." After the show was finished we put on our civil-
 ian clothes and took our handbags. "None of you
 must go out alone," I warned them, "for you might
 get hurt." One of my boys was on horseback and was
 taking his horse to water it at a trough. His pony was
 taken away from him and he returned without it.
 His hat, too, had been stolen. Indeed he barely es-
 caped with his life. "Come, let us go back," I said.
 I told the other boys to go right on and not to worry
 about me. I gave them my handbag and then returned 159*
 to the place where the first boy had been attacked. 648
 Before we got there the same boy was attacked and 549
 set upon with clubs. We were right in the midst of a
 big crowd of Whites. These shouted and chased him.
 When they saw me they started for me. I fought
 them with my bare fists, turning from side to side. I
 was completely surrounded by them. Whenever any
 one got near enough to me I struck him. Then I
 started to run and was hit on the head, but I was
 not knocked unconscious. I was now angry and I
 struck out at all within reach. If I had had a weapon
 [141]

Crashing Thunder

* 159 I would have killed some of them. Several now fell
● 579 upon me and I was struck on the head until it was
648 entirely covered with blood. I started for the show
tents which had not yet been taken down. Just then
the man who had begun all the trouble came toward
me with a hatchet. I went for him and when he raised
the hatchet I struck him and knocked him down, for
I hit him straight in the mouth.

A policeman now came forward and led me to our
show tents. I was covered with blood. The women
were weeping and told the policeman who I was, that
it was not my fault and that I had not been drinking.
I was taken to jail. I told the policeman that we
ought not to be locked up for we had not started the
trouble. The others ought to be locked up, we said,
for it was the particular man who had hit my boy who
had been drinking. "You are right," said the police-
man. "I will go back and look for your things. Yet
you ought not to be on the street for you have hurt
many people. You had better stay in jail for a few
hours for many people are on the watch for you. Now
I'll go for your pony and then you can do what you
like." They put me in jail and there I found the Indian
about whom all the trouble had started. "Well, this is
good," he said. "I thought they had killed you. Well,
how many did you kill?" "I didn't kill any one," I
answered. "It is good, for I thought they had either
killed you or that you had killed them."

Then I washed the blood from my head. Soon after
the policeman returned and brought my pony with him,

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as well as my hat. Then he said, "You are to go home immediately. It is true that you have been dealt with unfairly, but this is a regular fair town, and if any trouble starts in the courts about this affair, it will hurt our fairs in the future. We shall therefore not go to law about it. The man who started the trouble is the owner of a large hotel, and in addition, owns a trotting horse. You have knocked out all the teeth of this hotel-keeper, and we do not know whether he will live or not. You have bruised other people, too, badly. So you had better go home."

From there we started for our home. My partner rode a pony and rode through the middle of the town on it. I went in the same direction. He was afraid to go through the crowd of white people. A policeman escorted us out to the edge of the town. There we told him that we wanted some whisky and he went into a saloon and bought us two quarts. We both started then, sitting on a small two-year-old pony that belonged to my partner. Every time a team drove by we got frightened. After we had been drinking a little, however, we said that if the fight were to occur again, we would surely kill some one for we were sorry about the way in which it had ended. No one pursued us, however.

There were some Indians living in the neighborhood and we used to go to visit them every night. When I told them about what had happened they got quite frightened for they thought these white people would come out there to fight. So they moved away on the

Dissipation

happened to have, for I had become a thief. If I saw 159*
 a woman drunk, I would steal her, for I was an adul- [685]
 terer. What I was looking for mainly was a woman to [273]
 cohabit with, for in this way, I was able to get all her [837]
 money. If any woman wanted to cohabit with me, she
 would have to give me all the money she had. This
 is the sort of thing I was doing. In this way I often
 succeeded in inducing two or three women to live with
 me at the same time.

After finishing at Necedah the superintendent always 159*
 went to Tomah to pay the people there, and from 657
 Tomah he would proceed to Black River Falls. At
 Black River Falls the last payment was made, and for
 that reason it was always an extremely noisy place on
 such an occasion. All who liked this kind of a life, all
 who used to chase payments for the fun of it, would be
 there. Marriages would get badly mixed up here, and
 there would always be stealing of one another's wives, [837]
 fighting, robbery, etc. Even those married people who [579]
 had been faithful to each other up till then, would [684]
 become unfaithful. Many people would get hurt.
 When the last payment had been made, all those who
 had not spent their last cent on drink would begin gam- [525]
 bling, the men and women playing poker. Only when
 our last cent was gone would we stop and settle down.
 Many of us were generally left without enough money
 to go home.

[P147]